

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A putter head comprising:
2 a toe portion;
3 a heel portion;
4 a generally vertically extending wall, the wall having a front strike face,
5 a rear surface, an upper layer, and a lower layer, the upper layer, the lower layer and
6 the rear portion each extending from the heel portion to the toe portion to define a
7 recess rearwardly extending into the wall from the strike face, the rear portion of the
8 wall being formed with variable thickness thereby providing the recess with a variable
9 rearward depth; and
10 an insert substantially filling the recess and connected to the wall, the
11 insert having a front surface, a top surface, a bottom surface and a rear surface, the
12 front surface being exposed, the top and bottom surfaces being substantially covered by
13 the wall.
- 1 2. The putter head of claim 1, further comprising a sole portion rearwardly
2 extending from a lower region of the wall, and wherein the sole portion has an upper
3 surface, and wherein the upper surface has a sight line positioned substantially
4 perpendicular to the strike face.
- 1 3. The putter head of claim 1, further comprising a sole portion rearwardly
2 extending from a lower region of the wall, and wherein the sole portion has an elongate
3 sole slot disposed rearward of the insert and generally parallel to the strike face.
- 1 4. The putter head of claim 1, wherein the wall includes an upper rear edge
2 generally extending from the heel portion to the toe portion, and wherein the upper rear
3 edge is substantially parallel with the strike face to provide a top alignment line.

1 5. The putter head of claim 1, wherein the insert is a lightweight material
2 selected from the group consisting of a urethane, an epoxy resin, a thermoplastic, a
3 thermoset material, an elastomer, and combinations thereof.

1 6. The putter head of claim 1, wherein the insert is made of a translucent
2 material.

1 7. The putter head of claim 1, wherein the insert is formed in a shape
2 selected from the group consisting of trapezoidal, triangular, polygonal, semi-circular,
3 semi-elliptical, and combinations thereof.

1 8. The putter head of claim 1, wherein the recess is defined in a central
2 region of the strike face, and wherein the exposed front surface of the insert is
3 substantially coplanar the strike face.

1 9. The putter head of claim 1, wherein the recess extends substantially
2 across the entire width of the strike face.

1 10. The putter head of claim 1, wherein the insert is castably formed to the
2 wall without the use of an adhesive.

1 11. The putter head of claim 1, wherein the strike surface has an intended
2 strike region, and wherein the exposed front surface extends across the intended strike
3 region of the strike face.

1 12. The putter head of claim 1, wherein the insert is formed of a material
2 having a durometer of between 40 and 65 on a Shore A hardness scale.

1 13. The putter head of claim 1, wherein the insert is formed of a material
2 having a durometer of between 45 and 55 on a Shore A hardness scale.

1 14. The putter head of claim 1, wherein the insert includes a center portion,
2 a toe end portion and a heel end portion, wherein the center, toe and heel portions of
3 the insert have first, second and third rearward depths, respectively, wherein the first
4 rearward depth is greater than either of the second and third rearward depths.

1 15. A putter head comprising:
2 a generally vertically extending wall having a front strike face and a rear
3 surface, the wall having an insert region at the strike face defining a rearwardly
4 extending recess of varying rearward depth; and
5 a single insert castably formed in the recess of the insert region, the
6 insert having a variable rearward depth to substantially fill the recess, the insert
7 contacting the insert region of the wall.

1 16. The putter head of claim 15, further comprising a sole portion
2 rearwardly extending from a lower region of the wall, and wherein the sole portion has
3 an upper surface, and wherein the upper surface has a sight line positioned substantially
4 perpendicular to the strike face.

1 17. The putter head of claim 15, further comprising a sole portion
2 rearwardly extending from a lower region of the wall, and wherein the sole portion has
3 an elongate sole slot disposed rearward of the insert and generally parallel to the strike
4 face.

1 18. The putter head of claim 15, wherein the wall includes an upper rear
2 edge generally extending from the heel portion to the toe portion, and wherein the
3 upper rear edge is substantially parallel with the strike face to provide a top alignment
4 line.

1 19. The putter head of claim 15, wherein the insert is a lightweight material
2 selected from the group consisting of a urethane, an epoxy resin, a thermoplastic, a
3 thermoset material, an elastomer, and combinations thereof.

1 20. The putter head of claim 15, wherein the insert is made of a translucent
2 material.

1 21. The putter head of claim 15, wherein the insert is formed in a shape
2 selected from the group consisting of trapezoidal, triangular, polygonal, semi-circular,
3 semi-elliptical, and combinations thereof.

1 22. The putter head of claim 15, wherein the recess is defined in a central
2 region of the strike face, and wherein the exposed front surface of the insert extends
3 across the central region of the strike face.

1 23. The putter head of claim 15, wherein the recess extends substantially
2 across the entire width of the strike face, and wherein the exposed front surface of the
3 insert is generally coplanar with the strike face.

1 24. The putter head of claim 15, wherein the insert is formed of a material
2 having a durometer of between 40 and 65 on a Shore A hardness scale.

1 25. The putter head of claim 15, wherein the insert is formed of a material
2 having a durometer of between 45 and 55 on a Shore A hardness scale.

1 26. The putter head of claim 15, wherein the insert includes a center portion,
2 a toe end portion and a heel end portion, wherein the center, toe and heel portions of
3 the insert have first, second and third rearward depths, respectively, wherein the first
4 rearward depth is greater than either the second and third rearward depths.

1 27. A putter head comprising:

2 a toe portion;
3 a heel portion;
4 a generally vertically extending wall extending from the toe portion to
5 the heel portion, the wall having a front strike face and a rear surface;
6 a rearwardly extending recess defined into the strike face of the wall, the
7 recess having varying rearward depth;
8 an insert substantially filling the recess and connected to the wall; and
9 a sole portion rearwardly extending from a lower portion of the wall, the
10 sole portion having an elongate sole slot, the sole slot disposed rearward of the insert
11 and substantially parallel to the strike face.

1 28. The putter head of claim 27, wherein the sole portion has an upper
2 surface, and wherein the upper surface has a sight line positioned substantially
3 perpendicular to the strike face.

1 29. The putter head of claim 27, wherein the wall includes an upper rear
2 edge generally extending from the heel portion to the toe portion, and wherein the
3 upper rear edge is substantially parallel with the strike face to provide a top alignment
4 line.

1 30. The putter head of claim 27, wherein the insert is a lightweight material
2 selected from the group consisting of a urethane, an epoxy resin, a thermoplastic, a
3 thermoset material, an elastomer, and combinations thereof.

1 31. The putter head of claim 27, wherein the insert is formed in a shape
2 selected from the group consisting of trapezoidal, triangular, polygonal, semi-circular,
3 semi-elliptical, and combinations thereof.

1 32. The putter head of claim 27, wherein the recess extends substantially
2 across the entire width of the strike face, and wherein the exposed front surface of the
3 insert is generally coplanar with the strike face.

1 33. The putter head of claim 27, wherein the insert is castably formed to the
2 wall without the use of an adhesive.

1 34. The putter head of claim 27, wherein the insert is formed of a material
2 having a durometer of between 40 and 65 on a Shore A hardness scale.

1 35. The putter head of claim 27, wherein the insert is formed of a material
2 having a durometer of between 45 and 55 on a Shore A hardness scale.